

error". While rightly emphasizing their limitations, to condemn these tests as "frail", with all that adjective's subtle connotation, is to be something less than just in view of the splendid service they have given us in the many years of the past, and in view also of what they are still doing for us to-day. Chancroid is rather "played down" as "this relatively rare venereal disease",—"rare" certainly in this country, and therefore a correct description in so far as purely British surgery is concerned, but chancroid is very prevalent among the uncircumcized in many tropical countries and in the last world war was a menace to troops stationed, for example, in the Philippines. Probably pressure on space leads to enforced generalization, but, even so, definite description would take little more room than such vague expressions as "a suitable speculum", "a suitable syringe", or "a weak antiseptic".

Constructive suggestions would be to recommend the inclusion, under the subheadings "Cardio-vascular Syphilis" and "Ancillary Treatment", of a reference to pages 168–170 of the same volume for details of the surgical treatment of aneurysm; also reference to page 326 and page 332 for fuller descriptions of granuloma venereum and lymphogranuloma inguinale.

Apart from two good photographs, the illustrations have been mostly taken from another author's "Textbook of Venereal Disease". Looking, however, at this magnificent "Textbook of British Surgery", now under consideration, as a likely source of information for students, especially advanced students

and post-graduates reading for higher degrees, exception might be taken to Fig. 140, which is misleading, not only in that "Flagellae" is not the plural of flagellum, but also that the *Trichomonas vaginalis* is wrongly represented as having only three free flagella: it is a tetra-trichomonas with four free flagella. Summing up—to strike a proper balance, one wishes to congratulate the author on producing a chapter on "Venereal and Allied Diseases" chosen to take its due place in this third volume of one of the most illustrious and monumental contributions to the current literature of British surgery.

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Report of the Medical Research Council for the year 1956–57. Cmnd. 453. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London. (13s.)

This report includes a brief statement on "The Changing Pattern of Serological Tests for Syphilis" (p. 23). It concludes that "... the T.W.R. test may well replace the time-honoured Wassermann reaction and other similar tests performed with normal tissue extracts, as the routine laboratory test for the diagnosis of syphilis. It seems therefore that the present trend is to employ treponemal antigens in serological tests as a means of avoiding most, if not all, of the false positive reactions which have been the bane of serological tests for syphilis for the last 50 years; and the general adoption of specific tests in the diagnosis of syphilis would be welcomed by laboratories as a return to normal immunological techniques in serology."